

Message Text

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45

ACTION ARA-20

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-15 USIA-15

NIC-01 ACDA-19 OMB-01 TRSE-00 AID-20 IGA-02 OPR-02

RSR-01 /135 W

----- 064304

R 271546Z AUG 73

FM AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3388

INFO USCINCSO

C O N F I D E N T I A L BUENOS AIRES 6327

USCINCSO FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, AR

SUBJ: DEVELOPING ELECTORAL SCENE

REF: BA 6108

1. SUMMARY: ISABEL DE PERON'S CANDIDACY IS NOW FINAL. UCR'S ATTACKS ON PERON AND PERONISTS ARE MOUNTING IN INTENSITY--THOUGH BALBIN CONTINUES TO SAY UCR HAS "NO ENEMIES, ONLY ADVERSARIES." MANRIQUE HAS CHALLENGED BOTH PERON AND BALBIN TO TV DEBATES, NEITHER HAS ACCEPTED. END SUMMARY.

2. FREJULI--ISABEL DE PERON'S CANDIDACY IS NOW IRREVOCABLE, THE DEADLINE FOR REGISTERING CANDIDATES HAVING EXPIRED AUG 24. PERON'S LIEUTENANTS HAVE MADE IT CLEAR THAT HE WILL NOT CONDUCT A VIGOROUS CAMPAIGN, AND WILL NOT TRAVEL--THOUGH ISABEL MAY TOUR A NUMBER OF PROVINCES. PERON MET WITH OTHER FREJULI LEADERS ON AUG 23. INTERVIEWED AS HE EMERGED FROM THE MEETING, MID LEADER ARTURO FRONDIZI DID NOT DENY THAT THE DIGS AT DEVELOPMENTALISTS IN PERON'S SPEECH OF AUG 18 (SEE BA 6108) WERE AIMED AT THE MID. IN EFFECT FRONDIZI SAID PERON HAD HIS VIEW ON DEVELOP-
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MENT, WHILE HE, FRONDIZI, HAD HIS OWN. THERE HAVE BEEN SEVERAL

INDICATIONS TOO OF DIVISIONS WITHIN THE MID ITSELF, RESULTING MOSTLY FROM THE CONVICTION ON THE PART OF SOME THAT MID IS MOVING TOO CLOSE TO THE PERONISTS.

3. NEW SUPPORT FOR PERON WAS NAILED DOWN AUG 24 WHEN THE COMMUNIST PARTY (SWINGING ABOUT 200 THOUSAND VOTES) ISSUED A STATEMENT AT THE CLOSE OF ITS CONGRESS (SEE SEPTEL) SAYING IT WOULD SUPPORT PERON IN THE COMING ELECTIONS. OSCAR ALENDE'S PARTIDO INSTRANSIGENTE ALSO HELD ITS CONGRESS THE END OF THE WEEK AND DECIDED TO ABSTAIN IN THE SEPT 23 ELECTIONS. IN EFFECT HOWEVER IT WILL SUPPORT PERON, AS WAS CLEAR FROM THE STATEMENT IT ISSUED SUGGESTING THAT IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE WILL OF THE PEOPLE EXPRESSED IN THE MARCH 11 ELECTIONS, PERON SHOULD BE THE ONLY CANDIDATE. MEANWHILE PERON HIMSELF SEEMED TO BE ON THE VERGE OF MAKING A PLAY TO PERONIST YOUTH AND THE LEFT WING OF HIS MOVEMENT (SEE SEPTEL).

4. UCR--ON AUG 24 UCR LEADER RICARDO BABLIN TOOK HIS HARDEST JAB TO DATE AT THE PERONISTS. HE DECLARED THE ELECTORAL PROCESS TO BE NEITHER CLEAN NOR BALANCED, AND CHARGED THE PERONIST GOVT WITH USING OFFICIAL FUNDS TO HELP THE FREJULI CAMPAIGN. VICE PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATE DE LA RUA CONTINUED TO CRITICIZE THE PERONIST GOVT AND OPENLY SUGGESTED THAT THE UCR MAY NOT PARTICIPATE IN PERON'S COUNCIL OF STATE. ANOTHER HIGHRANKING UCR SOURCE VOICED SAME DOUBT TO EMBOFF ON AUG 24 AND SAID RADICALES VIEW THE FUTURE WITH PESSIMISM. OF PERON-ISABELITA TICKET, SOURCE COMMENTED "WITH THAT TICKET PERON HAS PLANTED THE SEEDS FOR ANOTHER MILITARY INTERVENTION." THE UCR HAS ANNOUNCED THAT IT IS BROKE AND WILL HAVE TO CONDUCT A VERY LIMITED CAMPAIGN.

5. MANRIQUE--AT THE END OF THE WEEK MANRIQUE SENT A LETTER TO BOTH PERON AND BALBIN SUGGESTING THAT IN ORDER TO SAVE MONEY AND TIME THE VARIOUS CANDIDATES SHOULD HOLD A SERIES OF TV DEBATES RATHER THAN CONDUCTING A TRADITIONAL POLITICAL CAMPAIGN. NEITHER PERON NOR BALBIN HAVE YET ACKNOWLEDGED THE SUGGESTION; NEITHER IS LIKELY TO RISE TO THE BAIT.

6. PST--THE PST WAITED UNTIL THE DEADLINE BEFORE REGISTERING THE CANDIDACIES OF JUAN CORAL AND LABOR LEADER JOSE FRANCISCO
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PAEZ, FOR PRESIDENT AND VICE PRESIDENT, RESPECTIVELY. APPARENTLY THE PST WAITED UNTIL THE LAST MOMENT IN HOPES THAT AGUSTIN TOSCO WOULD CHANGE HIS MIND AND ADECIDE TO ACCEPT THEIR OFFER THAT HE RUN ON THE PST TICKET.
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